In the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

- a data receiver (120,122) for receiving a signal channel selections from a user;

- a signal input (100,105) for receiving a program signal associated with one of a plurality of signal channels, said signal input selecting one of said plurality of signal channels in response to said signal channel selection;

- a signal output (RGB OUT) for providing an output signal derived from said program signal;

- an auxiliary data decoder (115) for detecting program related information included in each said program signal; and

- a processor (112) operatively connected to said data receiver, said signal input, said signal output and said auxiliary data decoder, wherein said processor controls said output signal in a predetermined manner to reduce user access to said program signal when a predetermined sequence of signal channel selections is received.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said processor controls said output signal in said predetermined manner for at least until said program related information has been determined when said predetermined sequence of signal channel selections is received.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said program signal is a television signal.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said program signal comprises a plurality of digital signal packets.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined sequence of signal channel selections comprises a predetermined number of consecutive selections of a particular signal channel.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined sequence of signal channel selections comprises a predetermined number of consecutive selections of said particular signal channel, a second signal channel and said particular signal channel.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said processor controls said output signal in said predetermined manner when said predetermined sequence of signal channel selections is received and a first blocking mode has been selected.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said processor is capable of providing an On Screen Display menu for allowing user selection of said first blocking mode.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said processor is capable of providing a restricted access On Screen Display menu for allowing user selection of said first blocking mode.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein access to said restricted access On Screen Display menu is password protected.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined manner of control comprises one of blanking the video signal, replacing the video signal with an On Screen Display message, muting the audio signal and disabling associated closed captions.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said processor controls said output signal in said predetermined manner when said predetermined sequence of signal channel selections is detected, unless said program related information was previously determined to be within an acceptable level within a predetermined period of time.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a second signal input (101,102) for receiving a second program signal from an external signal source, and a switch (140) operatively connected to said signal input, said second signal input, said signal output and said signal processor, said switch operatively coupling a respective one of said program signal and said second program signal with said signal output in response to a signal source selection from the user, wherein said signal processor controls said output signal in a predetermined manner to reduce user access to said output signal for at least until said program related information has been determined when a new signal source selection is received